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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,
OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION.

NO. 75.

BULLETIN OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTIONS.

April 1 to 30, 1912.

NEW PLANT IMMIGRANTS.

(NOTE: Applications for material listed in this bulletin may be made at any time to this Offfice. As they are received they are filed, and when the material is ready for the use of experimenters it is sent to those on the list of applicants who can show hat they are prepared to care for it, as well as to others selected because of their special fitness to experiment with the particular plants imported.

One of the main objects of the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduotion is to secure material for plant experimenters, and it will undertake as far as possible to fill any specific requests for foreign seeds or plants from plant breeders and others interested.)

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PLATE: Arracacia xanthorrhiza. Arracacha.

MATTER IN THIS BULLETIN IS NOT TO BE PUBLISHED WITHOUT SPECIAL PERMISSION.

AGAVE CANTULA. (Amaryllidaceae.) 33508. From Manila. Presented by Mr. M. M. Saleeby, fiber expert, Philippine Bureau of Agriculture, through Mr. L. H. Dewey of this Bureau. "Manila maguey is cultivated in the Philippines and to a limited extent in India, where it produces the fiber known as Bombay aloe. It is cultivated on a large scale in Java, producing a very excellent quality of fiber which has heretofore been placed on the market under the misleading name 'Java sisal'. The Javanese growers now propose that this fiber shall be called 'cantala'. It grows well in Java on rich loamy soils, where the heavy rainfall and lack of lime make it impossible to cultivate sisal or henequen to good advantage. This plant would grow well in the eastern part of Porto Rico." (Dewey.) For distribution later.

AMMOPHILA SP. (Poaceae.) 33320. Seed of a grass from St. Petersburg, Russia. "A perennial, tall grass, found growing in sand-dunes in northern Mongolia. Its seeds are collected by the Mongols and a coarse bread made from them. This grass seems to possess excellent sand-binding qualities and might be tested for this purpose in cold and dry sections of the United States. Obtained from Mr. J. W. Palibin, St. Petersburg Botanic Garden, who received these seeds from the neighborhood of Lake Ubsa, northwestern Mongolia." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later.

AMYGDALUS SPP. (Amygdalaceae.) 33311-312. Seeds of wild almonds, from St. Petersburg Botanic Garden. "Wild almonds occurring in the hot and dry mountain regions of Russian Turkestan. May be experimented with for the following purposes: as a drough resistant stock for almonds and peaches; as a possible drough resistant nut tree; as an ornamental small tree in desert regions and as a hybridization factor. The second may also prove of value as a hedge material for desert regions." (Meyer's introductions.) For distribution later.

ARRACACIA SPP. (Apiaceae.) 33467-468. Tubers of arracacia from La Guaira, Venezuela. Procured by Mr. Thomas W. Voetter, America consul. "Apio. It is known by this name in Caracas, and it is much appreciated for use in chicken or beef soups. It is produced in the heights of the mountains from 5000 feet upwards at a temperature of 20° C. (68° F.). The method of sowing it here is the ordinary way. The workman makes a hill of earth a half a yard high and two yards in diameter, well pulverized, and the seed is sown. Or the cutting which comes from the trunk or head of the plant is cut

with care, leaving on each cutting about a quarter of an inch of the fleshy part of the root and two or three inches of the top. This fleshy part is set two inches deep in the top of the hill and is always kept free from weeds. Hilling is done after the plant has eight to twelve sprouts, taking care not to heap the earth against the trunks of the plant, which would seriously damage it. The plant can be pulled up when it is from 12 to 16 months old; some harvest it at from 8 to 10 months, but it is growing up to 13 to 14 months. Leaving it without pulling it up for 16 to 18 months or longer, it is very probable that it will be spoiled in color, flavor or tenderness, without being able to regain these qualities. The plants after being pulled up last but a short time after being pulled from the trunk." (Casañas, in report by Mr. Thomas W. Voetter.) For distribution later.

CUCURBITA SP. (Cucurbitaceae.) 33511. Seeds of a squash from Puerto Allegro, Brazil. Presented by Mr. Willy Muller, Hortus Nucerensis, Nocera Inferiore, Naples, Italy. "'Mogango.' A very fine squash which I hope will be useful, especially for Florida, Texas, and Southern California." (Muller.) For distribution later.

DIOSCOREA SP. (Dioscoreaceae.) 33350. Tuber from Livingston, Guatemala. Presented by Miss Lucie Potts. "This is called the potato of the air (papa del aigre). The natives say it was the original potato. It grows on a vine and is produced above ground, and when boiled tastes very much like a potato." (Potts.) For distribution later.

HEDYSARUM SPP. (Fabaceae.) 33303-307. Seeds from St. Petersburg, Russia. "Perennial legumes, which may be tested f'r their possible forage value." (Meyer's introductions.) For distribution later.

JASMINUM SP. (Oleaceae.) 33500. Plants of a jasmine from Enfield, England. Presented by Mr. Amos Perry. "A Chinese novelty. The only red jasmine yet known. It is a quick grower, quite hardy. Flowers very abundant, of a bright, deep cherry red." (Perry.) For distribution later.

LARIX SIBIRICA. (Pinaceae.) 33317-318. From St. Petersburg, Russia. "The little known Siberian larch, an excellent lumber tree, requiring only a very short season to mature; 10 weeks of summer apparently being sufficient to complete the whole process of coming into leaf and shedding again. This tree possesses also great value as an ornamental park tree in cool, uncongenial climes, like in and around St. Petersburg,

where it becomes one of the tallest of all trees. Can also be clipped into pyramids to serve in formal gardens and along walks. May be expected to thrive especially in the cool and moist sections of the United States." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution lter. For illustration see Bulletin No. 72 this series.

LARIX SP. (Pinaceae.) 33319. Seeds of a larch from Estate Mitino, Torchok, Twer government, Russia. "A larch, occurring in Manchuria, eastern Siberia, northern Korea, etc., forming here and there large forests. Its lumber is also of excellent quality, though apparently not ranked as high as that of Larix sibirica. It is also a fine ornamental tree, not growing as tall as L. sibirica, but better able to withstand drought and heat. Can also be clipped and pruned for use in formal gardens and seems naturally to branch out nearer the ground, than L. sibirica. Received from Mr. D. D. Romanoff, on whose estate it grew." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later.

LATHYRUS SP. (Fabaceae.) 33290. Seeds of a Lathyrus from St. Petersburg Botanic Garden. "A rare, perennial Lathyrus, which occurs here and there on mountain slopes in southern Bokhara, having large reddish-pink flowers, which are quite fragrant. Of value as a factor in hybridization experiments in trying to create perennial sweet peas, and as a possible forage plant for dry, hot regions." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later.

LILIUM DAHURICUM. (Liliaceae.) 33310. Seeds of a lily from St. Petersburg Botanic Garden. "A lily, coming from the Amur region, having bright brick-red flowers. Though not of large dimensions, this plant seems a desirable acquisition to the hardy border." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later.

ONOBRYCHIS SPP. (Fabaceae.) 33291-294. Seeds from St. Petersburg, Russia. "Annual legumes, which may be tested for their possible forage value." (Meyer's introductions.) For distribution later.

PINUS LEUCODERMIS. (Pinaceae.) 3346. Seeds of pine from Sophia, Bulgaria. Presented by Mr. K. Baicoucheff, Chief inspector of Waters and Forests of Bulgaria, at the request of Mr. Alaricus Delmard. "A tree reaching a height of 80 feet, with pyramidal head. Bark light gray; leaves dark green 2 to 4 inches long. This tree is related to P. laricio, and by some authorities referred to as var. austriaca of that species.

In Great Britain, according to Veitch's Manual, it is usually a smaller tree than P. laricio proper and of denser habit, with stout and long horizontal branches and shorter but stouter and more rigid leaves of a darker green. It is said to be a fast growing tree of great accommodative power on the poorer classes of soils for bearing shade; it is one of the best kinds for forming shelter screens. The wood is coarser in grain than that of P. laricio and is apt to be knotty when the trees have been grown in poor soils." (Beissner, Nadelholzkunde.) For distribution later.

PISTACIA VERA. (Anacardiaceae.) 33441. Cuttings of the pistache from Bronte, Itly. Presented by Mr. Charles Beek, gardener to the Duke of Bronte. An interesting shipment because of the various forms of packing used. Some cuttings were packed with their ends wrapped in clay and then in cloth, others with the ends waxed, others with moss and oiled paper, and a lot in a tin tube with both ends packed in clay. Of these the propagator says; "There is such a slight difference in the condition of the 3 bundles of these scions that it is hard to say which is best, as all are in good condition except the tin tube lot. I really think the ones that had their ends covered with stiff clay are the best, the ones with the ends waxed came next, then the moss and oiled paper lot. The tin tube lot is in poor condition, all cuttings being mouldy and decayed on both ends." For distribution later.

RICINUS COMMUNIS. (Euphorbiaceae.) 33408-417. Seeds of castor bean from British India. Presented by Mr. John D. Shanahan, late of this Bureau, who procured them at the Allahabad exhibition. "There is one feature about the castor bean which all the evidence the writer could collect seems to bear out, and that is that the smaller bean is very much more desirable for commercial use than the larger one, as it is generally given credit for producing a larger yield and better quality oil. This of course is only in a general way. In India where the greater part of the commercial bean is obtained, the product grown in the territory surrounding Cawnpore is usually very large and in commercial contracts this bean is barred on account of its large size and insignificant yield of oil. The castor plant grows very large in some sections, reaching a height of from 25 to 30 feet, and in India it is mostly grown as a hedge plant, surrounding fields and dooryards. The manufacture of castor oil is growing in this country and it seems to the writer that the production of beans in this country should be encouraged." (Shanahan.) For distribution later.

ROSCHERIA MELANOCHOETES. (Phoenicaceae.) 33347. From Port Louis, Mauritius. Presented by Mr. G. Regnard. "A palm 15 to 24 feet high with many aerial roots and a stem 2 to 3 inches in diameter with a ring of spines when young below each leaf-scar. Very ornamental and becoming scarce." (Regnard.) For distribution later.

RUBUS SPP. (Rosaceae.) 33342-345. Seeds of Rubi from Ootacamund, India. Presented by Mr. F. H. Butcher, curator, Government Botanic Gardens. Four species of Rubus introduced for breeding purposes and comparative tests. Several of the southern Indian species of this genus have edible fruits of good quality comparing with the best American species. For distribution later.

SOLANUM TUBEROSUM. (Solanaceae.) 33471-491. Tubers of potato from Kenty, Galicia, Austria. Purchased from Messrs. Heinrich Dolkowski and son. Twenty-two varieties representing the best potatoes grown in Austria. For distribution later.

SPINACIA TETRANDRA. (Chenopodiaceae.) 23308. Seeds of a wild spinach from St. Petersburg Botanic Garden, St. Petersburg, Russia. "A wild spinach, occurring in central Asia. Of value possibly in hybridization and selection experiments, with the object in mind of creating strains of spinach more resistant to hot weather and less quickly shooting into seed than present varieties do." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later.

TRIGONELLA SPP. (Fabaceae.) 33295-301. Seeds from St. Petersburg, Russia. "Annual legumes, which may be tested for their possible forage value." (Meyer's introductions.) For distribution later.

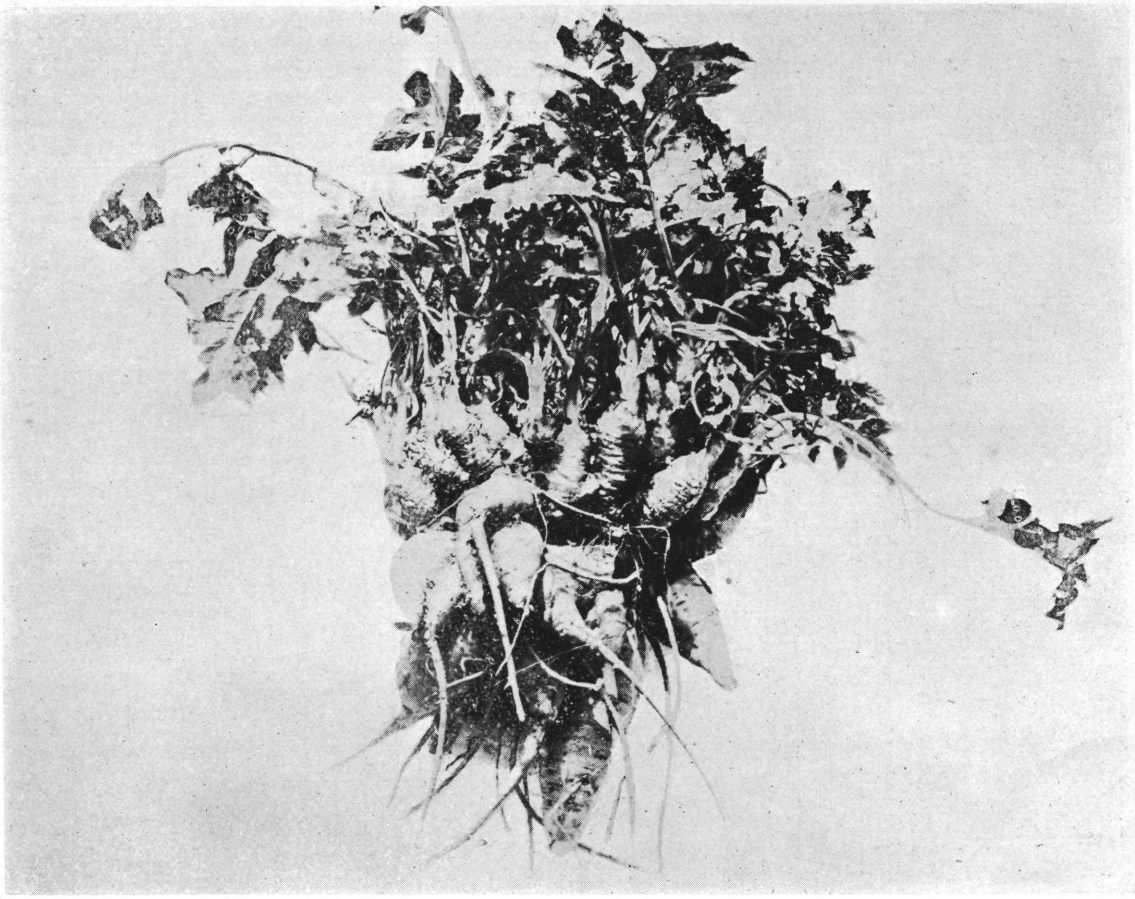
TRITICUM AESTIVUM. (Poaceae.) 33523. Seed of wheat from Tashkent, Russian Turkestan. Presented by Dr. Richard Schroeder, Director, Agricultural experiment station. "Our best Turkestan wheat, 'Ssarymaguis,' that is, 'yellow grain.' This variety belongs to the species T.aestivum, but under dry conditions gives hard kernels. It is a spring wheat, but in Turkestan it is often sown late in the fall and sprouts in the beginning or at the end of the winter. We get the bulk of our annual rainfall in winter and spring, and as our summer and fall are too dry for sprouting of wheat in September or October (sometimes even in November), this fall sowing is equivalent to early spring sowing and is largely practiced with spring wheats. True fall wheat is sown with us mostly on irrigated lands. The sample I send is taken from a farmer, one of our

neighbors (District of Tashkent.) It is not pure and contains some other varieties mixed with the 'Ssarymaguis.'" (Schroeder). For distribution later.

TRITICUM DURUM. (Poaceae.) 33285-288. Seeds of summer wheats from St. Petersburg, Russia. Four varieties of summer wheats, some grown under irrigation, some without, all from the hot and dry Syr-Daria district of Russian Turkestan. (Meyer's introductions.) For distribution later.

VITIS VINIFERA. (Vitaceae.) 33376-378. Cuttings of grapes from Almeria, Spain. Procured by Mr. James Murison, acting consular agent, at the request of Mr. Walter T. Swingle. "Uva de Embarque, (white grape)", "Uva de Casta (Melinera variety)", and "Uva de Casta (Rosada variety)". For distribution later.

ZEA MAYS. (Poaceae.) 33448-457. Seeds of maize from La Paz, Bolivia. Presented by Mr. Horace G. Knowles, American minister. "Cuzco corn. The grains of this corn are twice the size of the largest I ever saw in the United States, and its snow-white color and fine flavor make it superior to our American white corn. Another and very important advantage that it has over our American corn is that it produces on the same number and length of ears from 10 to 30 per cent more corn. Thus its increased yield would be about one quarter more than the average of the American variety of corn in the United States, and if it will grow as well there as here, and my belief is that it will produce even better there than here, it would have an enormous effect on the total corn production of our country. Another great advantage it has is that it thrives in a climate similar to that of our northern states, and it may be that it can be grown in sections of our country that will not produce our American varieties. Another feature of this corn is its very fine texture. I believe it would grind as fine as wheat flour, and as corn flour it would be far superior to meal in many respects and for many uses it would be equal to wheat flour." (Knowles.) Included in this lot are white, variegated red, white and black, black corns, and variegated red sweet corn , and a white sweet corn, of which Mr. Knowles says, "A sweet or sugar corn which is so very sweet that sugar or syrup could be made from it." For distribution later.



ARRACACIA XANTHORRHIZA. Arracacha.

A native of the mountains of South America at heights above 4000 feet, and cultivated at lower altitudes. It is a member of the celery family, which plant it resembles, and has large fleshy yellow roots, which when boiled are very palatable resembling parsnips in flavor. It is the staple food of Venezuelans and Colombians living at high altitudes. As the plant requires 12 to 16 months to develop it will probably grow only in comparatively frost-free regions. Should be planted in hills 18 inches high and two yards across, using a cutting of about a quarter inch of the fleshy part of the root and several inches of the top. When eight to twelve sprouts appear the hilling may be done, taking care not to heap the earth against the shoots.

(Issued June 18, 1912.)